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Yet, the reviewer heartily recommends this compact little book to all students interested in economic theory. Aside from the main thesis, the book contains a first-class analysis of the Marxian and Austrian theories of distribution. Moreover, this study written in German paves a way to familiarity with the foremost economist of Russia.

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*The Theory of Social Revolutions.* By BROOKS ADAMS. New York: Macmillan, 1913. 8vo, pp. vii+240. \$1.25 net.

The title of the book is rather misleading. Fortunately, the material that is actually given and the lucid presentation recompense the reader for whatever disappointment he may feel because of an unhappily selected title.

The bulk of the book is a very careful discussion of the present-day political situation in the United States, appraising it with respect to the broad social undercurrents of our life and not in terms of the petty differences between the various political factions. After a chapter on the "Limitations of the Judicial Function" comes one on "American Legislation." These are followed by a brief historical review of the evolution of our political forms and institutions. Many well-selected historical events are recalled to prove what may be called Mr. Adams' theory of social revolutions—the necessity of changes in the administrative type and forms as soon as changes in the social environment take place.

Throughout the pages one can detect the writer's aversion to our older political parties and a great sympathy with the progressive movement. When he attempts to apply his theory of social revolutions to our affairs, he clearly states that the administrative type representing individualistic capitalism must give way to the type representing governmental regulation and social democracy. On the whole, the book might be termed an attempt to furnish the Progressive party with a distinct social philosophy. Needless to say, therefore, it is both timely and helpful.

Yet the chief merit of the book lies somewhere else—it is to be found in the multitude of very suggestive remarks of a sociological nature. The light attitude of our capitalism toward law, the extreme legalism of our courts, the analysis of Tammany's success in New York, the idea that the expenses of a government are proportionate to the progress of centralization, the view that politicians of a stand-pat party, honest as they may be, are bound to be socially harmful—the book is crowded with such general but suggestive ideas. Some of them may prove false but they surely challenge criticism and stimulate thought.

In conclusion, attention should be called to the calm, judicial spirit of the author. One feels as if in the presence of a venerable, wise man lovingly instructing the youth on the possible opportunities and perils in their lives to

come. Mr. Brooks Adams is certainly a lover of his country, and his copatriots should give him a hearing.

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*Investing for Profit.* By G. C. SELDEN. New York: The Magazine of Wall Street, 1913. 12mo, pp. 170. \$1.00.

How can the "investor" burdened with idle funds, but ignorant of financial or statistical methods, not only safely invest his money, but at the same time secure profits in addition to the normal interest rate? Mr. Selden in this little book reconciles to his own satisfaction the hitherto incompatible principles of safety of investment and an abnormally high return on that investment. The author expounds the "underlying principles" and promises the "investor that if he uses plain common-sense in applying them to the concrete cases, he cannot fail of success."

What is the keynote of Mr. Selden's book? Buy stocks when they are cheap and sell them when they are dear. But how is the investor to know when the bottom of the market has been reached? Answer: By reading the New York bank statement.

The author's chapter on the New York bank statement is of especial importance because the opinions there presented are at variance with those now entertained by the New York bankers themselves. The fundamental question is the relation between the loans and deposits of the New York banks. The author's analysis of this relationship is readily comprehensible to the lay mind. The bank loans its deposits. Further, when a bank exhausts the deposits brought to it by business men, it lends its capital, surplus, and circulating notes.

The author also finds that the conclusions reached by statistical studies have little or no value in foretelling future prices. He explains why such mental gymnastics have no utilitarian justification (p. 104): "Half a dozen of them [statisticians] are now making public the results of their studies and it unfortunately happens that they are very rarely found to agree. As all are pursuing similar methods, this tends to cast a doubt on the accuracy of their results." The author's own chart showing the fluctuations of deposits down to the present time is free from the complexities of the statistical method that annoy and confuse the ordinary reader. After pondering over the significance of these selected facts, the writer concludes that the fund of excess deposits for stock-market purposes is the best index to the broad movements of the market; his final advice to the "investor" is that "the time to buy is when excess deposits begin to pile up rapidly and that the time to sell is when these excess deposits are exhausted" (p. 135).

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*The Larger Aspects of Socialism.* By WILLIAM ENGLISH WALLING. New York: Macmillan, 1913. 8vo, pp. xxi+403. \$1.50.

Mr. Walling undertakes in this book to indicate the response of Socialism to the pragmatic tests. The larger aspects of Socialism—its attitude toward